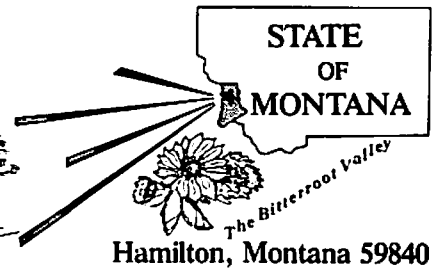
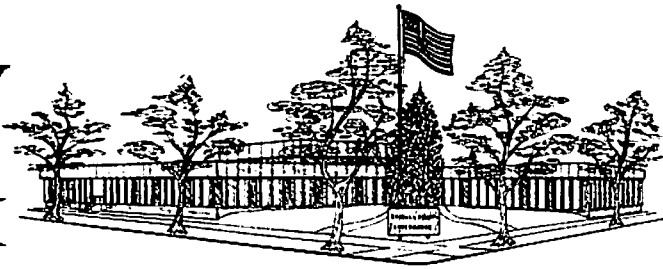


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



**Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-375-6500**

February 12, 2009

Dr. Steve Helgersen
Montana State Medical Director
P.O. Box 20251
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Follow-up on re-sale of excess rabies vaccine and RIG

Dear Dr. Helgersen:

It is my understanding that Judy Griffin delivered the excess rabies vaccine and RIG to your office on January 29, 2008, and that you have requested a letter confirming the process to be used for re-sale of this excess vaccine. Judy also notified me that the State Health Department had agreed to cover the cost of shipping the vaccine as it is re-sold, and Ravalli County wishes to thank you for assuming this expense to assist in this matter. If we are successful in obtaining insurance payment for any of these expenses, the County will reimburse you these amounts. Again, Ravalli County greatly appreciates the cooperative spirit and assistance you have provided throughout this situation.

Ravalli County has remitted payment to Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital for the excess portion of the vaccine that was delivered to you. While Ravalli County is continuing discussions with the Stevensville School and their insurers to resolve the matter, we felt that proceeding with the re-sale was the best way to try to mitigate loss for everyone and utilize the vaccine while it is still viable.

To that end, Ravalli County has established a budget line for tracking re-sale of the excess rabies vaccine the County has paid for, and has implemented the following procedures:

- When the State Health Department is contacted regarding availability of rabies vaccine or RIG, the State will inform the inquiring person that the vaccine is available immediately for purchase from Ravalli County. Similarly, if Ravalli County learns of a need for the vaccine, the Public Health office will contact the State to determine what amount of vaccine is available.
- If the person wishes to purchase vaccine from Ravalli County, the State will provide the name and phone number of Donna Parmenter at the Public Health office, (406) 375-6670. It would be helpful if the State could inform the person that the vaccine can be purchased by check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard) only. Taking into consideration medical time constraints and the necessity to confirm payment before the vaccine can be shipped, it will not be possible for the County to accept insurance information and wait for payment.

It would also be helpful if the State could notify Ms. Parmenter via phone, fax (406) 375-6680, or email of dparmenter@ravallicounty.mt.gov if the State is aware of the specific dosage of rabies vaccine/RIG the person intends to purchase so she can calculate the charges due using the initial cost of the vaccine.

- Ms. Parmenter will obtain payment from the person and promptly process that payment through the County Treasurer's Office (this should take no more than one day after payment is received). Once payment is confirmed, Ms. Parmenter will notify the State Health Department of the amount purchased by fax or email, and the vaccine can be shipped.
- The State should send Ms. Parmenter a copy of the shipping verification, which will be placed with the payment information in the appropriate Ravalli County file.

This procedure is being proposed for consideration by your office, and if you have any suggested revisions please let us know and we are happy to consider them. It is our intent to make the process as easy as possible for all agencies, as well as the person purchasing the vaccine.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding whether this procedure is acceptable. Please contact Judy Griffin in the Public Health office if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman
Ravalli County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Ron Klein, MT State Board of Pharmacy
Donna Parmenter, Public Health Office
Klarryse Murphy, Internal Auditor
JoAnne Johnson, Treasurer